

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 291718Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7735

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01382

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, IZ

SUBJECT: PRO-KURDISH LOBBY STIRRING IN BRITAIN

1. BRITISH GOVERNMENT, IN THE FORM OF FCO MINISTER OF STATE ENNALS FOR ONE, HAS BECOME CONCERNED, WE LEARN, OVER LEVEL AND FREQUENCY OF REPRESENTATIONS TO HMG OFFICIALS ON BEHALF OF THE KURDS. MORE AND MORE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN UK HAVE BEEN VISITING THE KURDS AND COMING BACK TO TELL THE PRESS HOW BADLY KURDS ARE SUFFERING, AS WELL AS PETITIONING HMG TO DO MORE ON THEIR BEHALF.

2. FCO OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN TURNING BACK REQUESTS THAT HMG INTERVENE WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. ARGUMENT THAT SUCH INTERVENTION WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE HAS FOUND GENERAL ACCEPTANCE AMONG PETITIONERS.

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HOWEVER NEW SUGGESTIONS ARE NOW COMING IN ALONG TWO

LINES: (A) THAT HMG USE INFLUENCE WITH THEIR NATO ALLY TURKEY TO OPEN BORDER (WHICH IS IN FACT, IF NOT OFFICIALLY, CLOSED) WITH IRAQ, WHERE KURDS ARE PINNED UP AGAINST IT, AND (B) TO PUSH COMPLAINT WITHIN UN BODIES ON BASIS THAT IRAQIS ARE USING "INHUMAN" WEAPONS SUCH AS PHOSPHORUS, NAPALM, ETC., AGAINST SOME OF WHICH UN RESOLUTIONS EXIST.

3. FCO OFFICIALS ARE RESISTING THIS PRESSURE, BUT ARE NOT SURE HOW LONG HMG MINISTERS CAN RESIST.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS INDEPENDENTLY NOTED GROWING FREQUENCY OF HORROR STORIES IN BRITISH PRESS BASED ON EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCY VISITORS TO IRAN AND THE GENERAL AREA OF THE KURDISH FIGHTING.

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